

DELTA PROTECTION COMMISSION

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**Agenda Item #7****January 28, 1999**

To: Delta Protection Commission

From: Margit Aramburu, Executive Director

Subject: Executive Director's Report.

Status of Staff Work:

Staff met with landowners of Hog Island to help them define a habitat enhancement, education, public access project. Research and project definition is continuing.

Delta In-Channel Islands work group selected a team of consultants to carry out Phase I (\$272,270.00 CALFED grant) to design the project, prepare needed environmental review, and obtain permits for construction. The team includes Murray Burns and Kienlen and Kjeldsen, Cyanic and Neudeck, D.C. Engineering, and others with experience in and knowledge of the Delta.

Staff met with staff of Department of Boating and Waterways and representatives of the recreational boating industry to start discussions of additional planning work needed in the Delta on recreational issues.

Commission Budget:

Commission has received approval of deficiency authorization for FY 98-99 from Department of Finance; that means the Commission may spend funds before the Legislature formally approves the additional funds later this year.

Included in the mailing packet is the recommendations for the Commission's FY 99-00 budget from the Governor's proposed budget. Budget hearings start early this year; the Commission will be before the Senate Budget Committee on February 18.

Grant Programs:

State Water Resources Control Board has announced Watershed, Agricultural Drainage Management, and Wetlands Grant RFPs to be released February 15, 1999.

Caldrons and the Resources Agency will jointly distribute 11 million dollars for habitat land acquisition as part of the new Conservation Lands Program--funds are for critical habitat lands that also provide a scenic viewshed to major highway corridors.

Grant applications for LEGACI grants from the Great Valley Center are due on February 16, 1999.

The Department of Conservation Agricultural Land Stewardship Program will provide 13.6 million in grant funds for acquisition of conservation easements on agricultural lands.

Reports/Studies:

Secretary Doug Wheeler released a report on the State of the State's Wetlands at the end of the Wilson Administration. The report includes a tracking and accounting table of wetlands during his eight years as Secretary of Resources.

Department of Boating and Waterways is hiring a consultant to closely study boat use survey, boat traffic analysis, and modeling of present recreational boating patterns in the Delta. The project will be completed late this year or next year.

Department of Boating and Waterways is also hiring a consultant to continue its study of levee erosion due to all sources.

Other Matters of Interest:

Have received and will pass around sample packet of materials developed to promote environmentally sensitive boating, with a focus on controlling oily wastes.